

Revised Draft 6/03 -Not for Citation

Town of Bedford Commonwealth of Massachusetts

A Blueprint for Youth

6/03

Note: This draft was developed by representatives from the Bedford Community Partnership and based on A Statewide Policy on Youth developed through the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Executive Office of Public Safety, Department of Education, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Department of Public Health and Department of Social Services. Technical support was provided for the original plan by the MA Youth Development Advisory Council, the MA Adolescent Health Council, the Family and Youth Services Bureau and the National Governor's Association Youth Policy Network. The Youth Development Advisory Council and the Adolescent Health Council have formally endorsed the Statewide policy draft. Comments and suggestions to the policy draft are welcome. For more information, please contact: Sue Baldauf, Director, Bedford Youth & Family Services, 781-275-7727, x258.

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The Bedford Community Partnership (BCP), created in 1998 is a coalition composed of both members of the community (parents and residents) and providers of social services, law enforcement, businesses, spiritual leaders, elected officials, school representatives, and many other interested or concerned parties.

In keeping with our purpose to promote, collaborate and partner strategies that effectively nurture the physical, sociological, and emotional health of Bedford children and families across generations we propose the following as

A Shared Vision for Bedford Youth

The undersigned agencies share the following vision for Massachusetts' youth:

All Bedford youth grow up to be healthy, caring and economically self-sufficient adults.

Strategic Goals

The undersigned agencies endorse the following strategic goals. We recognize that our collective work towards these goals will support the healthy development of Bedford's youth.

Goal 1: All youth have access to resources that promote optimal physical and mental health

Goal 2: All youth have nurturing relationships with adults and positive relationships with peers.

Goal 3: All youth have access to safe places for living, learning and working

Goal 4: All youth have access to educational and economic opportunity

Goal 5: All youth have access to structured activities and opportunity for community service and civic participation

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Goal 1: All Youth Have Access to Resources that Promote Positive Physical & Mental Health

Strategies	Activities/Partners (current/ proposed)	Indicators	Performance Measures
<input type="checkbox"/> Public health & health access programs <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition programs	<input type="checkbox"/> PublicHealth insurance enrollment w/ DPH, DMA, MA Medicaid, SCHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Immunization <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive preventive health, (incl. prenatal, dental, vision, hearing) screening & services <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled youth health screening programs <input type="checkbox"/> DMR Medically Fragile Support Program <input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment in nutrition programs by DOE, Bedford Public Schools Food Service Program, USDA food stamp, WIC, LEAs, DTA , DPH, Food Pantry, Project Bread	<input type="checkbox"/> Health insurance coverage <input type="checkbox"/> Immunization rates <input type="checkbox"/> Health screening data <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled youth health screening data <input type="checkbox"/> Mortality by age <input type="checkbox"/> # of referrals to support medically fragile <input type="checkbox"/> Food stamp participation <input type="checkbox"/> % overweight/obese <input type="checkbox"/> Malnutrition cases	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase rates of insured children & families <input type="checkbox"/> Increase immunization rates <input type="checkbox"/> Improve health screening access for all youth <input type="checkbox"/> Increase # of medically fragile able to remain at home <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce preventable mortality <input type="checkbox"/> Increase participation in nutrition programs <input type="checkbox"/> Improved nutrition, ht/wt app. To age & body type <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease obesity
<input type="checkbox"/> Programs that promote healthy choices	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol, tobacco & other drug (ATOD) prevention & treatment programs/initiatives (ie SAAM, Diversion, Cessation) <input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality, abstinence, teen pregnancy prevention programs <input type="checkbox"/> Physical activity programs at school <input type="checkbox"/> Prevention Education/Health Curriculum Frameworks (HCF)	<input type="checkbox"/> ATOD use among youth <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual behavior/ STD/condom use <input type="checkbox"/> Teen pregnancy rates <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education data <input type="checkbox"/> HCF Implementation	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduction in youth ATOD use <input type="checkbox"/> Increase delaying onset of sexual activity <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease teen pregnancy /teen STD and HIV rates
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental health (MH) access & intervention programs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Partnerships for school & community based MH screening & services <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency/Inpatient/Residential capacity <input type="checkbox"/> Suicide Prevention initiatives <input type="checkbox"/> Grief/crisis/victim counseling assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> MH screening data <input type="checkbox"/> Requests for MH services <input type="checkbox"/> Residential utilization <input type="checkbox"/> Intent. injury/suicide rates <input type="checkbox"/> # of acute psychiatric placements	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase access to MH resources <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease in intentional injury/youth suicide rates <input type="checkbox"/> Increase % individuals with disabilities able to return home after placement
<input type="checkbox"/> Faith based/ spiritual activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual, Interfaith, and/or religious activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual/religious Involvement <input type="checkbox"/> Social/community assistance	
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural / recreational resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Playground utilization <input type="checkbox"/> Open space/conservation areas <input type="checkbox"/> Rec. programs, athletic leagues Bike paths/municipal parks <input type="checkbox"/> EPA/Conservation enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> % of local open space <input type="checkbox"/> municipal park and recreation programs <input type="checkbox"/> congestion/pollution	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain and increase open space /conservation/park resources <input type="checkbox"/> Congestion/Pollution reduction

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Goal 2: All Youth Have Nurturing Relationships With Caring Adults and Positive Relationships with Peers.

Strategies	Activities/Partners	Indicators	Performance Measures
<input type="checkbox"/> Family support programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Family support/ parenting/home visit programs w. DPH,DSS, DTA, First Connections, HAFB, Bedford Family Connection, local religious groups <input type="checkbox"/> Child support <input type="checkbox"/> Fatherhood initiatives <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence interventions w/ Police, court, DVVAP related to families with children <input type="checkbox"/> Family support initiatives for individuals with disabilities (PAC) <input type="checkbox"/> Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention & Intervention initiatives involving youth, families, law enforcement, the courts, municipal , state and federal government, the private sector and community partners	<input type="checkbox"/> Family composition (Census data) <input type="checkbox"/> State Child support compliance rates <input type="checkbox"/> Family violence/child abuse rates <input type="checkbox"/> Care and Protection Petitions <input type="checkbox"/> CHNS Petitions <input type="checkbox"/> Program participation rates re: family support for disabled	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease child abuse and neglect <input type="checkbox"/> Increase child support compliance through appropriate referral mechanisms <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease domestic violence rates <input type="checkbox"/> Increase access to family support programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring	<input type="checkbox"/> School (K-12) and college-based service-learning <input type="checkbox"/> Community mentoring, i.e., school, COA, BBEA, & community partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/> # of mentors/ mentoring programs <input type="checkbox"/> # of state, municipal employee mentors <input type="checkbox"/> # of private sector employee mentors	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase numbers of mentors <input type="checkbox"/> Increase % high school and college students (including individuals with disabilities) who have a mentor <input type="checkbox"/> Limit wait for mentor match
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Kinship recruitment <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative care arrangements in collaboration with DSS & community partners	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth placement rates	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of alternative care placements <input type="checkbox"/> Maximization of kinship placement
<input type="checkbox"/> Diversity Initiatives	<input type="checkbox"/> Bullying prevention and intervention programs <input type="checkbox"/> teen dating violence education <input type="checkbox"/> Student alliances including GLBT support programs, diversity initiatives, and hate crimes prevention	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth initiated violence <input type="checkbox"/> Prevalence of teen dating violence <input type="checkbox"/> # of student alliances, GLBT support programs & diversity initiatives <input type="checkbox"/> Hate crime data	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce youth violence <input type="checkbox"/> Increase utilization of state dating violence & local DVVAP hotlines <input type="checkbox"/> Increase access to student alliances, GLBT support programs & diversity initiatives <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce hate crimes

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Goal 3: All Youth Have Access to Safe Places for Living, Learning & Working

Strategies	Activities/Partners (current & proposed)	Indicators	Performance Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Affordable housing/shelter/homeless prevention initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Recommendations from Bedford Housing Partnership and A & F report on Housing & Homelessness incl. improved state discharge planning, increased housing supply incentives □ TAFDC/EAEDC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ % of affordable housing units □ Homelessness data □ TAFDC/EAEDC caseload 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Increase % of affordable housing units □ Decrease homeless shelter/hotel/motel utilization □ Increase self sufficiency index
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Crime/Violence prevention & Intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Child abuse & neglect response □ Community Based Juvenile Justice □ Community policing □ School civil rights awareness, ie discrimination, harassment, & hate motivated violence □ School violence prevention and response efforts □ Safe Neighborhood /Crime Watch Initiative □ Probation initiatives □ Teen dating violence initiatives □ Hate Crime Prevention □ Restorative justice/diversion programs □ Identification of youth impacted by domestic violence □ VPC Community Education programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Child abuse & neglect reporting rates □ School safety □ Weapons injury □ Weapons carrying □ Physical fighting □ Crime rates □ # of schools with conflict resolution curriculum and with dating violence initiatives □ Reported teen dating violence □ Hate crimes □ Health Curriculum Framework data □ Gang involvement estimates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Reduce crime rate □ Increase community policing efforts □ Reduce school violence □ Increase # of schools with conflict resolution curriculum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Accident Prevention Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Seat belt, bike & pedestrian safety programs □ Drinking & driving prevention, drivers' ed □ Workplace safety programs □ Park/playground/skate park maintenance □ Health Curriculum Framework data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Accidental injury/ death rates among youth □ Alcohol/drug-related motor vehicle fatalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Decrease in accidental injury & death rates □ Increase in positive behavior /attitude □ Increase safety belt use □ Decrease alcohol/drug-related motor vehicle fatalities □ Increase use of safety gear
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Disability Access Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Enforcement of American's with Disabilities Act, or ADA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Compliance with ADA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Increase compliance with ADA

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Goal 4: All Youth Have Access To Educational & Economic Opportunity

Strategies	Activities/Partners (current & proposed)	Indicators	Perform. Measures
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Statewide Curriculum Frameworks Teaching <input type="checkbox"/> Remedial programs targeted towards youth w. highest failure rates <input type="checkbox"/> student volunteer tutor programs <input type="checkbox"/> Community & business school volunteer programs <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/adult literacy efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Job shadowing, summer work, school year work experience related to academic curriculum/ MA Work Based Learning Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Truancy prevention programs <input type="checkbox"/> Coordination with school entry & transition initiatives <input type="checkbox"/> Head Start/literacy efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Parental literacy programs <input type="checkbox"/> Educational supports for foster/homeless youth <input type="checkbox"/> Library programs <input type="checkbox"/> Music & arts programs <input type="checkbox"/> Post secondary institutions, i.e., MCC	<input type="checkbox"/> MCAS <input type="checkbox"/> Entry & transition readiness <input type="checkbox"/> Family involvement in schooling <input type="checkbox"/> Education/literacy level of parent or guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Truancy <input type="checkbox"/> Drop out rates <input type="checkbox"/> Graduation rates <input type="checkbox"/> GED <input type="checkbox"/> ESL <input type="checkbox"/> Library Utilization <input type="checkbox"/> Class size <input type="checkbox"/> Spending per pupil <input type="checkbox"/> Computers per student <input type="checkbox"/> Internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Post secondary admissions <input type="checkbox"/> Pre/post secondary learning <input type="checkbox"/> Rates of employment, unemployment, underemployment <input type="checkbox"/> Career development <input type="checkbox"/> Achievement of work-based competencies <input type="checkbox"/> Wage differentials <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty/self sufficiency standard/ TAFDC rates <input type="checkbox"/> Student working hours <input type="checkbox"/> Utilization of public & local transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve MCAS scores <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce truancy <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce dropout rates <input type="checkbox"/> Improve graduation rates <input type="checkbox"/> Increase parent and guardian literacy <input type="checkbox"/> Increase rate of students pursuing continuing education or training <input type="checkbox"/> Increase % of college/vocational admissions <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce poverty rates <input type="checkbox"/> Increase self sufficiency index <input type="checkbox"/> Increase % of individuals with disabilities in the workforce <input type="checkbox"/> Expansion of Bedford Local Transit
<input type="checkbox"/> Workforce Preparation	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop, strengthen & support independent educational learning <input type="checkbox"/> Job programs for young adults with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate MA Work Based Learning Plan with Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Foster Care Independence Act funds to target job development services to high risk & foster care youth <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage dual enrollment/ tuition waiver & other access to college initiatives for at risk youth <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Initiatives		

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Goal 5: All Youth Have Access To Structured Activities, & Opportunity for Community Service and Civic Participation

Strategies	Activities/Partners (current & proposed)	Indicators	Performance measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ After school programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Municipal/state/federal or private after school program initiatives ❑ Sports programs ❑ Recreation Dept. options ❑ Clubs/youth organizations ❑ Faith-based activities ❑ Nature programs ❑ Music and arts programs ❑ Professional training, development and/or certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ # of after school programs ❑ # of peer mentoring opportunities ❑ # of youth involved in scouting, sports, & other activities ❑ # of youth involved in recreation opportunities ❑ # of disabled participants in after school activities ❑ # of faith based activities ❑ Sports participation ❑ Recruitment and retention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Reduce amount of unsupervised time for youth ❑ Improve academic performance ❑ Reduce juvenile crime ❑ Increase participation of disabled youth in after school activities ❑ Increase recruitment and retention of youth worker staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Child care programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Community Partnership for Children ❑ Professional training, development, & certification/accreditation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Child care utilization by age appropriate child care resources ❑ Access/utilization based on family need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ # of families/providers participating ❑ Increase recruitment and retention of child care staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Youth Participation Initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Youth advisory capacity within local & community agencies ❑ Community service projects ❑ Local Legislation re: youth participation on boards & committees ❑ Peer leadership/support programs ❑ Youth development training & conferences ❑ Coordinated youth development efforts w. Regional Centers for Healthy Communities & CHNA's, HAFB/B&G club, et al ❑ Juvenile crime prevention initiatives ❑ Young adults voter registration drives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ # of youth active on community boards & committees ❑ # of community service options ❑ Faith based involvement ❑ Young Adult Voting rates ❑ # of peer leadership opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Increase # of youth serving actively on community boards & committees ❑ Increase voter registration & voting rates among young adults
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Youth Recognition Initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Recognition programs for youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Analysis of portrayal of youth in the community, including media & public settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Increase media & public recognition of youth & their contributions

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Glossary of Terms In order of appearance and if not explained in text

DPH -	Department of Public Health
DMA -	Department of Medical Assistance
SCHIP -	State Children's Health Insurance Program
DMR -	Department of Mental Retardation
DOE -	Department of Education
USDA -	United States Department of Agriculture
WIC -	Women, Infants, Children
LEAs -	Local Education Authority (eg School District)
DTA -	Department of Transitional Assistance
SAAM -	Substance Abuse Awareness Month
STD -	Sexually Transmitted Disease
HIV -	Human Immuno Deficiency Virus
EPA -	Environmental Protection Agency
DSS -	Department of Social Services
HAFB -	Hanscom Air Force Base
DVVAP -	Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program
PAC -	Parent Advisory Committee
CHINS -	Children in Need of Services
COA -	Council on Aging
GLBT -	gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered
A&F -	Administration and Finance, State of Massachusetts
TAFDC -	Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children
EAEDC -	Emergency Aid to Elderly, Disabled & Children
VPC -	Violence Prevention Coalition of Bedford
MCAS -	Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System
GED -	Graduation Equivalency Diploma
ESL -	English as a Second Language
MCC -	Middlesex Community College
CHNA -	Community Health Network Area
B&G -	Boys & Girls